

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/JP2003/015833



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 664128	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/015833	International filing date (day/month/year) 11 December 2003 (11.12.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 23 April 2003 (23.04.2003)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06K 17/00, G06F 12/06, 3/06, 3/08		
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>2</u> sheets, as follows:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
<input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 27 August 2004 (27.08.2004)	Date of completion of this report 02 December 2004 (02.12.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/015833

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:

international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

The international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages _____ 1-17 _____, as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

pages _____ 2-14 _____, as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages* _____ 1 _____ received by this Authority on _____ 22 November 2004 (22.11.2004)
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

pages _____ 1-7 _____, as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP03/15833

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-14	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	4-6, 11-13	YES
	Claims	1-3, 7-10, 14	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-14	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP, 2002-189992, A (Sony Corporation), July 5, 2002 (07.05.02), Full text, all drawings (in particular, claim 1, Fig. 1)
& US, 2002/0078297, A1

Document 2: JP, 2001-188883, A (Toshiba Corporation), July 10, 2001 (07.10.01), Full text, all drawings (in particular, claim 1, paragraphs 0014 and 0027-0035) (Family: none)

Document 3: JP, 2001-306182, A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), November 2, 2001 (11.02.01), Full text, all drawings (in particular, claims 1 and 8, paragraph 0017) & WO, 2001/080171, A1 & US, 2003/0109179, A1

Document 4: JP, 6-195524, A (Toshiba Corporation), July 15, 1994 (07.15.94), Paragraphs 0064-0066, Fig. 32 (Family: none)

Document 5: PC Card Standard, Release 7.0, February 1999, PCMCIA, JEITA, Volume 3, Physical Specification, p. 5, 3. Card Dimensions,
3.1 Write Protect Switch (WPS), Fig. 11-3

Document 6: JP, 2001-357943, A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), December 26, 2001 (12.26.01), Paragraph 0003 (Family: none)

Document 7: WO, 2000/068770, A1 (Socket Communications, Inc.), November 16, 2000 (11.16.00), Page 3, line 30-page 4, line 5
& JP, 2003-502727, A
& US, 6353780, B1

Document 8: JP, 8-315100, A (LG Semikon Company Limited), November 29, 1996 (11.29.96), Paragraphs 0016, 0017 and 0031-0033 & US, 5712811, A

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.
Continuation of Box V:

The invention of claim 1 does not appear to involve an inventive step based on documents 1 and 8, documents 2 and 8, documents 3 and 8, or documents 4 and 8 cited in the ISR. More specifically, the inventions indicated in documents 1 through 4 wherein a plurality of memory cards attached to a housing such as a card tray and adapter are configured so as to write /read data simultaneously to a plurality of memory cards as indicated in document 8 could be easily conceived of by a party skilled in the art.

The invention of claim 2 does not appear to involve an inventive step based on documents 1 and 8, documents 2 and 8, or documents 3 and 8 cited in the ISR.

The invention of claim 3 does not appear to involve an inventive step based on documents 1 and 8, or documents 2 and 8 cited in the ISR.

The inventions of claims 7-9 do not appear to involve an inventive step based on documents 3 and 8 cited in the ISR. Because the size of the memory card adapter of document 3 conforms to PCMCIA, it is same as the card size described in claims 7-9.

The inventions of claims 7-9 do not appear to involve an inventive step based on documents 1, 5 and 8, documents 2, 5 and 8, or documents 4, 5 and 8 cited in the ISR. Configuring the housing size of document 1, 2 or 4 to a size as stipulated in document 5, and adopting technology of writing/reading data simultaneously to a plurality of memory cards of document 8 would be easy for a party skilled in the art.

The invention of claim 10 does not appear to involve an inventive step based on documents 1, 6 and 8, documents 2, 6 and 8, documents 3, 6 and 8, documents 4, 6 and 8, documents 1, 7, and 8, documents 2, 7 and 8, document 3, 7 and 8, or documents 4, 7 and 8 cited in the ISR. Adopting an SD memory card as stipulated in document 6 or 7 in a card of document 1, 2, 3 or 4 and adopting technology of writing/reading simultaneously to a plurality of memory cards of document 8 would be easy for a party skilled in the art.

The invention of claim 14 does not appear to involve an inventive step based on documents 1, 5 and 8, documents 2, 5 and 8, or documents 3, 5 and 8 cited in the ISR. Adopting a write protect switch disclosed in document 5 to a housing of document 1, 2 or 3, and adopting technology of writing/reading data simultaneously to a plurality of memory cards of document 8 would be easy for a party skilled in the art.

The inventions relating to claims 4-6 and 11-13 are not described in any of the documents cited in the ISR; nor are they obvious to a party skilled in the art.